



US Mission Press Release 06/11

March 6, 2006

USD 801,000 FOR EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

On Tuesday, March 7, 2006, at 12 noon at Ministry of Finance and Development Planning Headquarters, the Government of Botswana, represented by the Minister of Finance, Balezdi Gaolathe, and the Government of the United States, represented by U.S. Ambassador Katherine Canavan and USAID Mission Director (acting) Anthony Vodraska, will sign a Memorandum of Understanding that programs \$801,000 for activities in export development and environmental protection. The funds will support technical assistance activities in areas such as trade policy, private sector participation in trade policy debates, and the development of a tropical forest conservation fund.

The U.S. Embassy has long been a strong proponent of Botswana's plans to diversify its economy, and is confident that this program will provide useful high-level technical support to Botswana policy-makers, private sector leaders, and environmental groups and specialists. The Embassy and USAID are pleased to be able to dedicate these funds to Botswana for present-day Government of Botswana priorities

The activities carried out under this 30-month program will be managed by the regional USAID mission in Gaborone, the Regional Center for Southern Africa.

For further detail, please contact: Laona Segatsho, Information Specialist, Public Affairs, U.S. Embassy, at Telephone: 3953982 Ext: 5419, E-mail: SegatshoLJ@state.gov or Judy Butterman, Public Affairs Officer, at Telephone: 3953982 Ext: 5468, E-mail: Buttermanjm@state.gov



Explanatory Notes:

USAID: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is the principal U.S. agency providing economic assistance to developing countries around the world. In Botswana, the bilateral USAID mission closed in 1995. The current USAID mission in Botswana is a regional mission, which works in multiple countries in southern Africa in the areas of agriculture, trade, governance, and natural resource management. There is also a regional HIV/AIDS program which is based in South Africa.

Source of funds: remaining balances of funds left over from USAID economic assistance activities in Botswana in the nineties.

Life of project: 30 months

Estimated use of funds: Export and trade development: 87%
Natural resource management: 13%